



7 February 2014

Leon Cammen, Director
National Sea Grant Program
1315 East-West Highway, Mail Code: R/SG
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Leon:

I am writing this letter to request formally that the National Sea Grant Program initiate the process for Pennsylvania Sea Grant to move to College status. It is my belief that Pennsylvania's program meets all of the criteria necessary to become a College:

- 2004 – The National Office designated The Pennsylvania State University as the Sea Grant Institution for Pennsylvania.
- 2008 – The National Office designated Pennsylvania Sea Grant an Institutional Program.

Pennsylvania's program meets other criteria as well:

- Has a statewide influence, with offices covering the Delaware River, Lake Erie, and Susquehanna River watersheds.
- Has a statewide Advisory Council that represents many of the program's constituencies, and regional councils for each major watershed.
- Has strong support from host institution Penn State, as well as good working relationships with many institutions of higher education throughout the state.
- Works closely with governmental agencies and other related constituencies across the state.
- Has a balanced program of extension and coastal literacy, communication, and research.
- Collaborates with other Sea Grant Programs and other related organizations to address national and international issues such as aquatic invasive species, areas of concern on the Great Lakes, and harmful algal blooms.

My colleagues and I thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to working with your team to initiate and complete the process.

Sincerely,

Senior Associate Dean for Research and Outreach & COO
and Director Pennsylvania Sea Grant

cc: D. Carlson
J. Eigen

College Status

Pennsylvania Sea Grant Institution has requested to be considered for Sea Grant College Status

THE NEXT STEPS

- * NSGO sets up a mechanism for a formal application, and the program submits an application
- * NSGO Director asks the SG Advisory Board to review the program
 - Review the Application
 - Site Visit
- * A SGAB subcommittee reviews and recommends to SGAB.
- * SGAB recommends to the Director, who recommends to the Secretary.
- * Entire process: a year or more

Criteria for College Status

The criteria for College Status review are set forth in regulation at 15 CFR 918.3:

- (1) Leadership.** Is the candidate an intellectual and practical leader in marine science, engineering, education, and advisory service in its state and region?
- (2) Organization.** Has the candidate created the necessary management organization to carry on a viable and productive Sea Grant Program, and does the candidate have backing of its administration at a sufficiently high level to fulfill its multidisciplinary and multifaceted mandate?
- (3) Relevance.** Is the candidate's program relevant to local, State, regional, or National opportunities and problems in the marine environment? Important factors in evaluating relevance are the presence of an emphasis on marine resources, and the extent to which capabilities have been developed to be responsive to that need.
- (4) Programmed team approach.** Does the candidate have a programmed team approach to solving marine problems, which includes relevant, high quality, multidisciplinary research with associated educational and advisory services capable of producing identifiable results?

Criteria for College Status

(5) Education and training. Is education and training clearly relevant to National, regional, State and local needs in fields related to ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal resources? (Education may include pre-college, college, post-graduate, public and adult levels.)

(6) Advisory services. Does the candidate have a strong program through which information, techniques and research results from any reliable source, domestic or international, are communicated to, and utilized by, user communities? In addition to the educational and information dissemination role, does the advisory service program aid in the identification and communication of user communities' research and educational needs?

(7) Relationships. Does the candidate have close ties with Federal agencies, State agencies and administrations, local authorities, business and industry, and other educational institutions? Do these ties: (i) ensure the relevance of its programs, (ii) give assistance to the broadest possible audience, (iii) involve a broad pool of talent in providing assistance and (iv) assist others in developing research and management competence? (The extent and quality of an institution's relationships are critical factors in evaluating the institutional program)

Criteria for College Status

(8) Productivity. Does the candidate have substantial strength in the three basic Sea Grant activities: research, education and training, and advisory services?

(9) Support. Does the candidate have the ability to obtain matching funds from non-Federal sources, such as state legislatures, university management, state agencies, business, and industry? A diversity of matching fund sources is encouraged as a sign of program vitality and the ability to meet the Sea Grant requirement that funds for the general programs be matched with at least one non-Federal dollar for every two Federal dollars.

(10) Continuity of high performance. Does the candidate demonstrate the ability to continue the pursuit of excellence and sustain the following? (i) high performance in marine research, education, training, and advisory services; (ii) leadership in marine activities including coordinated planning and cooperative work with local, state, regional, and Federal agencies, other Sea Grant programs, and non-Sea Grant universities; (iii) effective management framework and application of institutional resources to the achievement of Sea Grant objectives; (iv) long-term plans for research, education, training, and advisory services consistent with Sea Grant goals and objectives; (v) furtherance of the Sea Grant concept and the full development of its potential within the institution and the state; (vi) adequate and stable matching financial support for the program from non-Federal sources; and (vii) effective system to control the quality of its Sea Grant programs.